

## **Draft of the Gambling Control Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 25, 2009**

**45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine**

Meeting opened at 12:40 p.m..

**Board members present:** Chairman George McHale, Cushing Samp, Richard Arnold, Peter Danton and Larry Hall.

**Staff members present:** Exec.Director Robert Welch, Auditor Scott Woods and Secretary Kathy Chamberlain.

**Legal counsel:** Lara Nomani, Ass't A.G.

### **Minutes from 2/11/2009 meeting**

**Motion** to accept: Cushing Samp moved to accept the minutes

**Seconded:** Dick Arnold

**Vote:** 5-0

### **Executive Director's Report – Robert Welch**

- **Budget Update** – Mr. Welch advised that the budget for Gambling had been heard by Legal and Vets.
- **Legislative Update – LD 293** - An Act to provide for special projects at the Veteran's Cemetery by obtaining \$50,000 to establish a fund for the cemeteries. **LD 399** – An Act to collect Child Support fees from delinquent parents winning at the Racino, sponsored by the Dept of Health and Human Services. A lot of concern about the confidentiality as well as concern for the employees collecting these fees was involved. There is a workshop Friday. **LD 533** – An Act to establish a state controlled casino, which would contract with an outside Agency. This would be handled by making licenses available that bids would be accepted on, like Pennsylvania did. A workshop on this bill is set for this coming Monday. **LD 805** – An Act to change the limits at commercial harness racing tracks to allow them to move more than 5 mile from their 2003 location. Casino bill has not been printed yet.
- **Contracts Update** - GLI testing lab contract expires in 2011. McDonald Page contract expires this spring. We are in the RFP process now with an ad in the KJ. Mr. Welch has had a submission from McDonald Page already.
- **Sunday Hours** – are now in effect. The Secretary of State's website has not been updated yet to reflect the new hours.
- **Bangor PD Call Statistics for February** – 12 calls total. Given that 98,052 people attended Hollywood Slots, this number of calls is excellent. One report was written on an attempted suicide – but it was a case of a subject not feeling well who was given a ride from the facility.

### **Financial Update – Scott Woods**

Finances are up – nothing below a million a day played. Last month had the highest day money played wise of 2006-2008. Friday and Saturday remain the two biggest days. Now that Sunday hours are earlier, Sunday's amounts are also a little higher.

### **State Police Activity Update – Sgt. Bill Gomane**

53 applications have been processed since our February meeting. 15 interviews were conducted and eight incidents reviewed. 30 applications are pending approval.

### **Unfinished Business**

**A. Fine/Violations Sub-Committee Report – Cushing Samp** – no report at this time.

**B. Delegation of Authority in the Gambling Control Unit – Commissioner Jordan** has reviewed the statutory authority and financial status since 2005, that have included some budget and positions cut. There are some things in the Statute that the Executive Director can't delegate. If Mr. Welch is comfortable with Scott Woods being in charge when Mr. Welch is away, then the Commissioner is comfortable with that also. Putting the inspectors under Mr. Welch's supervision is more appropriate in order to follow Statute. Any criminal activity/OUI's etc. at the Racino are dealt with by Bangor P.D., not the State Police.

**Motion:** Dick Arnold motioned that in the absence of the Executive Director, that the highest ranking State Police officer (in the unit) be in charge.

**Seconded:** Peter Danton

**Vote:** 3-1 defeated with one abstention

**C. NAGRA Trip** – Mr. Welch had submitted travel requests for both Dick Arnold and Larry Hall to attend this conference. The Governor's Office has turned it down due to current restrictions on out of state travel. Mr. Arnold requested a copy of the denied voucher. (Was mailed to Mr. Arnold).

### **New Business – None**

### **Public Comments**

General Manager Jon Johnson addressed the Board. 3 million people have been to Hollywood Slots since the July 2008 opening of the permanent facility through February 2009. 72.3 million has been paid in taxes; 143.6 million slot revenue; 24 million to Harness Purses; 12 million to Funds for a Healthy Maine and 3.7 million paid to the University and Community college scholarships. The Racino is open earlier now on Sundays at 8:00 a.m.. The Hotel customers are happy that they can play the slots earlier. During the February basketball tournaments at the Civic Center, 900 people were served the buffet in a five hour period! Hotel occupancy – they are happy with that as well. They don't have a national reservation phone line like national chains, so it's a little harder to get the word out.

Lara Nomani, Legal Counsel to the Board reminded the board that with Freedom of Access requests – all Board business must be discussed during scheduled public meetings only. If there are questions between meetings, ask to have them put on the Agenda for the next meeting. For any legal matters that need to be discussed – give Chairman McHale a heads up if an Executive Session will be needed. Anything that needs immediate action – go through the Executive Director.

**Next meeting is 5/6/2009**

**Motion** to adjourn: Cushing

**Second:** Dick Arnold

**Vote 5-0**